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## Orleans Love

Kristina Kroger  
*College of DuPage*

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## Return of My Coyote Heart

Kristina Kroger

Coyote heart is wandering the blue hills  
framed by the red sky  
my beautiful, you've finally  
    come back  
From Wyoming  
From the cornfields  
And from the sea

My darling, now we can be lonely together  
In full possession of each other  
Now, my Tricky,  
find your reflection in the glass spires  
Heart, find your heart  
in the city and the pigeons and the mortar  
which binds us million million souls

Coyote heart, you found shelter  
on your long road  
in the hands of the magic man  
who knows the precise ways  
that sparks dance through your fur  
and how you house lightning bugs in your spine

## Orleans Love

Kristina Kroger

Jazzy knees and New Orleans teeth, boy you've got your witchdoctor self  
into my bones. Just carry me on your voice like a midnight train to Georgia.

We'll sneak out the back way to the sycamore trees, and that's where I'll  
love you. We'll tell the frogs about it.

You can laugh at the way the moonlight's coming off the bayou. You can  
wave your magic-man hands and make an alligator dance. You can make me a cir-  
cle of crow skulls and I'll wear it right-on, be Louisiana Queen.

I'll be your voodoo lady and cast tricky spells right on back. And I'll just ask  
that you remember me up to my knees in muddy creek water. No one has to know  
our story but Old Man Swamp--and I'm sure that bastard'll tell the crickets, who'll  
whip up a nocturnal chorus that'll let the whole damn nightworld know.

Thing is, sweetboy, they won't understand, cuz they forgot the hot language  
of steam and dream and  
moonlight and mud.